



Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** ★★ ★



Senior Companion Program of Tucson
Fran Coleman, Project Director/Program Manager
3830 E. Bellevue St.
Tucson, AZ 85716
520.323.1708 X240
fcoleman@ourfamilyservices.org

Our Family Services, Senior Companion Program

2012-2013

Tucson, Arizona

Federal Legislative District 2 & 3

PROGRAM FAST FACTS

Congressional District(s): 2 & 3
Service Area by County/City: Pima
Project Federal Share: \$210,000
Project Local Match: \$125,000
Community Volunteers Recruited: 44
Volunteer Hours Served: 46,620
Value of Volunteer Hours: \$936,129.60
*2011 Independent Sector Rate for the Value of a Volunteer Hour in Arizona is \$20.08

Community Need

Tucson seniors benefit by visits from Senior Companions; most are able to remain in their own homes/apartments as a result of weekly, on-going visits. Families caring for loved ones can get respite, which helps them go the distance. Most clients of the SCP do not end up institutionalized in nursing homes as a result of SCP care at home. Each year, approximately 200 seniors are able to remain independent, healthy & at home. Add in the 44+ volunteers who serve in this program, and approximately 250 elders are engaged in meaningful activities during the days. Elders receive the help they need to remain stable & happy, volunteers feel useful and engaged, families are better able to go the distance caring for their loved ones, and the greater Tucson community benefits from excellent senior care.



Our Family Services Vision

Making our community a better place to live, to grow up, and to grow older.

Our Family Services Mission

To support children and youth, to serve families and elders, to strengthen community connections.

History

Our Family Services (OFS) has hosted the National Service projects for many years now, most notably, the Senior Companion program that is in its 13th year of operation. OFS also has an AmeriCorps VISTA this year, who has been very helpful in the homeless services.

Program Activities

44 Senior Companions are stationed at 14 different sites throughout Pima County. Senior Companions assist frail elders & disabled persons in remaining independent and in their own homes/apartments. Senior Companions also assist by providing respite care to family members. Intervention by Senior Companions not only lifts the spirits of those performing the volunteer work, but also cuts out isolation and loneliness experienced by so many older adults. Senior Companions provide socialization, as well as rides to the doctor, pharmacy and grocery store.

Program Impact

The Tucson Senior Companion Program was featured in an article in the Arizona Daily Star (11.28.13). The reporter, Joseph Trevino, spoke particularly of the outreach to Latino elders, noting the ability of the program to send volunteers who understand the culture and can speak the language of the elder. Outreach is also conducted to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, as well as to the Tohono O'odham Nation; elders are delighted to find volunteers who can speak in their native language! This is one of the more unique aspects of SCP in Tucson.

National Priority Area and Program Performance Goals

Healthy Futures

1. Independent Living
2. Respite Care

National Priority Area: Healthy Futures

- Support independent living of 200+ seniors; provide respite to families; alleviate chronic depression and isolation of elders who have no one to care for & socialize with them.



Other

The Tucson Senior Companion Program is a diverse program of 44 volunteers, reaching out to the large Latino community here, as well as the Pascua Yaqui Tribe & the Tohono O’odham Nation. In addition, we have collaborated with the Southern Arizona Veterans Association in their Caregiver Respite program, so we are able to conduct outreach to veterans. This program currently has a waiting list of people who would like to become SCP volunteers and organizations that would like to host SCP. The community need for this program is extremely large and relies on funding of the program from the Corporation for National and Community Service to fulfill this need.

Partnerships

Armory Park Senior Center
Blanche Johnson Courtyards
El Rio Neighborhood Center
Fellowship Square Tucson
House of Neighborly Service
Mountain Trace Terrace
New Beginnings Homeless Street Outreach
Park Health Center
Pascua Yaqui Tribe
Pima Council on Aging
St. Luke’s Home
Southern AZ Veteran’s Caregiver Respite Program
Tohono O’odham Nation
Valley Assistance Services, Green Valley

